

REMARKS

The Office Action dated August 15, 2002 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto. In view of the these remarks, consideration of claims 1-9, and 11-13 is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for providing an interview and discussing the rejection of claims 1-3, 6-9 and 11-13 on October 2, 2002. Applicants would also like to thank the Examiner for considering the arguments presented at the interview.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-9, and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Lett (W/O 95,28799). The Office Action takes the position that Lett teaches or suggests all the features recited in claims 1-9, and 11-13. Applicants respectfully disagree. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration of claims 1-9, and 11-13.

Claim 1 is amended to include a means for distinguishing a time period containing a program designated by a user from other periods displayed on a display unit. Claims 2-5 and 11 are amended to include a means for distinguishing a time period in which a purchased program is present from a time period in which the purchased program is not present. Claim 6 is amended to include a means for distinguishing the arbitrary time period from other time periods.

It should be noted that claims 1-6 and 11 are claims drafted under 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph. Accordingly, the applied prior art must teach the recited function and the same or similar structure disclosed in the present specification. Applicants submit that Lett neither teaches nor suggests as the features recited in claims 1-6 and 11.

Lett discloses a method and apparatus for providing an interactive electronic programming guide. Specifically, Lett discloses a system for highlighting a cell where a cursor is located. Figure 5 of Lett illustrates a cursor positioned upon a program and highlighting the time and channel for the cursor position. When the cursor is moved to a different position, as shown in Figure 6, the starting time and channel of the program where the cursor is positioned is identified. The placing or positioning of the cursor over a particular program title does not result in the designation of a particular time period, since the highlighting follows the cursor position.

Claim 1, however, recites a means for distinguishing a time period containing a program designated by a user from other time periods displayed on a display unit. Lett's function is highlighting the program and the time where the cursor is positioned. The placing or positioning of the cursor over a particular program title does not result in the designation of a particular time period, since the highlighting follows the cursor position. Accordingly, Lett does not teach the function of distinguishing a time period designated by a user from other time periods displayed on a display unit. As a result, Lett does not teach the invention recited in claim 1.

Claims 2-5 and 11, recite a means for distinguishing a time period in which a purchased program is present from a time period in which the purchased program is not present. Lett only teaches the function of highlighting the current cursor position. As a result, Lett does not distinguish between a time period in which a purchased program is present from a time period in which the purchased program is not present. In other words, when the cursor position moves, the new cursor position is highlighted. Accordingly, Lett does not teach the function of distinguishing a time period in which a purchased program is present from a time period in which the purchased program is not present, recited in claims 2-5 and 11. Therefore, Lett does not teach the invention recited in claims 2-5 and 11.

Claim 6 recites a means for distinguishing the arbitrary time period from other time periods. It is submitted that Lett does not teach the function recited in claim 6. Specifically, Lett only teaches the function of highlighting the cursor position. Thus, when the cursor is moved to a new position, the new program and starting time of the program is highlighted. As a result, an arbitrary time period is not distinguished from other time period. In contrast, the present invention distinguishes an arbitrary time period from other time periods. Accordingly, Lett does not teach the function of distinguishing an arbitrary time period from other time periods, as recited in claim 6.

Lett does not teach the functions recited in claims 1-3, 6 and 11. Specifically, in regard to claim 1, Lett does not teach the function of distinguishing a time period containing a program designated by a user from other periods displayed on a display unit. In regard to claims 2-5 and 11, Lett does not teach the function of distinguishing a time period in which a purchased program is present from a time period in which the purchased program is not present. Additionally, Lett does not teach the function of distinguishing an arbitrary

time period from other time periods, as recited in claim 6. Furthermore, it should be noted that claims 7-9, 12, and 13 are dependent upon claim 6 and 11. Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-9 and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Lett and Hama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6230323). The Office Action takes the position that the combination of Lett and Hama teach or suggest all the features recited in claims 4 and 5. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In particular, it is respectfully submitted that Hama is not a proper reference. The present application has a filing date of October 27, 1998. However, the present application is a 371 of a PCT application filed on April 25, 1997. Thus, the effective filing date of the present application for prior art purposes is April 25, 1997. Hama has a patent date of May 8, 2001 with a 102(e) date of September 22, 1999. Since the effective filing date of the present application is before Hama's 102(e) date, it is respectfully submitted that Hama is not a proper reference. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4 and 5.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that Lett neither teaches nor suggests all the features of the claimed invention. Claims 1-6, and 11 are amended. No new matter is presented. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application containing claims 1-9 and 11-13, is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-9 and 11-13.

Should the Examiner believe the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment for any additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper to Counsel's Deposit Account 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Marked-Up Copy of the Claims
Petition for Extension of Time

MARKED-UP COPY OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Thrice Amended) A program-guide-display controlling apparatus comprising:
means for displaying a plurality of program guides on a display unit in a matrix form
by using one of the ordinate and the abscissa as a channel number axis and another one
as a time axis, and

means for distinguishing [displaying to discriminate] a time period containing a
program designated [based on designation] by a user from other time periods displayed on
a display unit.

2. (Thrice Amended) A program-guide-display controlling apparatus comprising:
means for displaying a plurality of program guides on a display unit in a matrix form
by using one of the ordinate and the abscissa as a channel number axis and another one
as a time axis; and

means for distinguishing [displaying to discriminate] a time period in which a
purchased program is present [and] from a time period in which the purchased program is
not present.

3. (Thrice Amended) A program-guide-display controlling apparatus comprising:
means for displaying a plurality of program guides on a display unit in a matrix form
by using one of the ordinate and the abscissa as a channel number axis and another one
as a time axis, and

means for distinguishing a time period in which a purchased program is present
from a time period in which the purchased program is not present

wherein the means for distinguishing includes a means for displaying in different
colors a program guide belonging to a time period in which a purchased program is present
and a time period in which the purchased program is not present among program guides
displayed on said display unit.

4. (Amended) A program-guide-display controlling apparatus for displaying some program guides of all program guides on a display unit in a matrix form by using one of the ordinate and the abscissa as a channel number axis and another one as a time axis, comprising:

means for displaying such that, if a program guide concerning a program which has been purchased is included in each of the program guides displayed on said display unit, that program guide can be discriminated from a program guide concerning a program which has not been purchased; [and]

means for distinguishing a time period in which a purchased program is present from a time period in which the purchased program is not present; and

means for displaying a mark indicating a direction of the channel axis and a direction in which a channel of a purchased program is present in a region corresponding to said time period in a display region of said display unit if a time period in which a purchased program is present is included in the time period of a program guide displayed on said display unit, and the purchased program guide is not displayed on said display unit.

5. (Thrice Amended) A program-guide-display controlling apparatus comprising:

means for displaying a plurality of items of program guide information on a display unit in a matrix form by using one of the ordinate and the abscissa as a channel number axis and another one as a time axis;[,] and

means for distinguishing a time period in which a purchased program is present from a time period in which the purchased program is not present, wherein the distinguishing means comprises a means for displaying a bar if [a] the time period in which a purchased program is present is included in the time period of a program guide displayed on said display unit, said bar being displayed in a region [corresponding to] proximate said time period in a display region of said display unit.

6. (Amended) A program-guide-display controlling apparatus for displaying a plurality of program guides on a display unit in a matrix form by using one of the ordinate and the abscissa as a channel number axis and another one as a time axis comprising:

setting means for allowing an arbitrary time period to be set by a user; and

means for distinguishing the arbitrary time period from other time periods.

[discriminatingly displaying means for effecting display to discriminate the time period set by the user and other time periods.]

11. (Twice Amended) A television receiver comprising a program-guide display controlling apparatus:

means for displaying a plurality of program guides on a display unit in a matrix form by using one of the ordinate and the abscissa as a channel number axis and another one as time axis, and

means for distinguishing between a time period in which a purchased program is present from a time period in which the purchased program is not present. [means for displaying to discriminate a time period based on designation by a user.]